



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Pasadena Man Sentenced to 45 Years in Prison in 2016 Murder of Columbia Man

A Pasadena man has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for the 2016 murder of Martin Edward Mullineaux, inside of his condominium in the 8700 block of Hayshed Lane in Columbia. Joseph P. Loverde, 29, of no fixed address, was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker this morning. Loverde pleaded guilty to first degree murder at a hearing held on October 23, 2017.

At the October hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Stephen Yaeger told the court that police and fire and rescue personnel were dispatched to Mullineaux's apartment shortly before noon on September 13, 2016 after it had been reported that he had not come to work in two days by his manager at the Green Valley Market. Police found Mullineaux's body lying motionless on the floor of his bedroom. Mullineaux, 62, was pronounced dead at the scene. There were no signs of forced entry. Evidence recovered at the scene led investigators to Loverde, whom they learned had been known to Mullineaux.

At this morning's sentencing hearing Yaeger characterized Loverde's conduct as "brutal and callous," detailing the multiple stab wounds suffered by Mullineaux before Loverde administered a blunt force blow to the head. Yaeger revealed that Loverde used Mullineaux's credit cards to conduct multiple transactions on the days following the murder. "This is not the behavior of someone who killed in a fit of rage and instantly regretted it; it is the behavior of someone who had no regard for the life he just took," he stated.

Judge Tucker sentenced Loverde to life in prison, suspending all but 45 years. Upon his eventual release Loverde faces five years of supervised probation during which he must abstain from alcohol, illegal substances and the abusive use of prescription drugs. Loverde must also submit to mental health evaluation and treatment as directed by the Maryland Department of Parole and Probation.

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